IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re patent application of:

Dan et al.

Serial No.: 09/070,831

Filed: April 30, 1998

Group Art Unit: 2611

Examiner: Rueben M. Brown

Atty. Docket No.: YO998137

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROGRAMMATIC GENERATION OF
CONTINUOUS MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPELLANTS' AMENDED APPEAL BRIEF

Sirs:

In response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief dated August 13, 2007,
Applicant submits herewith amended Sections III and VI which now states that claims
41-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) as being anticipated by Shiels. Appellant
respectfully appeals the final rejection of claims 10 and 41-61, in the Office Action dated
November 2, 2005. A Notice of Appeal was timely filed on February 2, 2006.

I.   REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is International Business Machines Corp., Armonk, New
York, assignee of 100% interest of the above-referenced patent application.

II.   RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or Assignee which would directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

III.   STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 10 and 41-61, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected on prior art grounds. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 102(e) as being anticipated by David et al., hereinafter "David" (U.S. Patent No 6,810,503). Claims 41-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) as being anticipated by Shiels (U.S. Patent No. 6,260,194) in view of Montgomery (U.S. Publication 2002/0080159). Appellants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

IV.   STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An after-final Response that made no claim amendments was filed on December 23, 2005. An Advisory Action dated February 9, 2006 indicated that, upon filing an appeal, the Response filed on December 23, 2005 did not place the application in condition for allowance, and that the rejections of claims would remain. The claims shown in the appendix are shown in their amended form as of the July 8, 2005 Amendment.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATER

One feature of the invention is maintaining a library of rules. Claim 10 defines this feature as follows: "maintaining a library of rules." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example on page 7, line 19 through page 8, line 1, describe this feature as follows: "In Fig. 1A, a presentation device 1A1, such as a TV or computer monitor, presents a presentation sequence 1A5 generated by the programmatic presentation generator 1A4". This is shown in Figure 1A.

Another feature of the invention is receiving at least one previously-generated presentation. Claim 10 defines this feature as follows: "receiving at least one previously-generated presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 8 at lines 11-13 describes this feature as follows: "Fig. 1B shows the block diagram of a programmatic presentation generator 1B5 used in a set top box 1B2. A television 1B1 receives the presentation sequences from a set top box 1B2." This is shown in Figure 1B

Another feature of the invention is selecting at least one event, wherein events control which rules in said library are applied to said previously-generated presentation. Claim 10 defines this feature as follows: "selecting at least one event, wherein events control which rules in said library are applied to said previously-generated presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at lines 3-4 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the invention is testing each rule in the library for each selected event to determine which rules will be applied to said previously-generated presentation. Claim 10 defines this feature as follows: "testing each rule in the library for each selected event to determine which rules will be applied to said previously-generated presentation". This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 8 at lines

4-7 describes this feature as follows: "The programmatic presentation generator 1A4 according to the present invention permits a presentation sequence, such as TV programs, MPEG sequences, etc., to be dynamically generated or, once generated, to be dynamically modified reflecting user input, presentation rules and external events." This is shown in Figure 1A.

Another feature of the invention is applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation. Claim 10 defines this feature as follows: "applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 8, at lines 1-7 describes this feature as follows: "This programmatic presentation generator 1A4 can generate the presentation sequences using the data pushed from data source 1A3 or it can pull the data from the data source 1A2 when required. These data sources can include a hard disk, digital video disk, satellite or TV broadcasting company. The programmatic presentation generator 1A4 according to the present invention permits a presentation sequence, such as TV programs, MPEG sequences, etc., to be dynamically generated or, once generated, to be dynamically modified reflecting user input, presentation rules and external events." This is shown in Figure 1A. This feature can be also described also in the specification on page 8, line 11 through page 9, line 3 as follows: "Fig. 1B shows the block diagram of a programmatic presentation generator 1B5 used in a set top box 1B2. A television 1B1 receives the presentation sequences from a set top box 1B2. By placing the programmatic presentation generator 1B5 in a set top box 1B2 (or in a television), users can dynamically modify or compose a presentation sequence using the multiple incoming channels 1B4. Fig. 1C is a block diagram which shows an Intelligent TV Guide as an example using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention. Multiple channels 1C1 are connected to a TV 1C3. Through certain channels 1C2, additional meta (command) data can also be transmitted."

Independent claims 41, 49, and 55 similarly define a method of modifying previously-generated presentations, except that claim 41 modifies the previously-generated presentation, claim 49 expands the previously-generated presentation, and claim 55 combines two previously-generated presentations.

Another feature of the application in claim 41 is creating a set of rules based on user input and selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified. Claim 41 defines this feature as follows: "creating a set of rules based on user input; and selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 9 at lines 3-6 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs as described hereinbelow. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the meta data." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the invention in claim 41 is after said creating of said rules, automatically modifying without user intervention, the previously-generated presentation based on the rules to produce a modified presentation. Claim 41 defines this feature as follows: "after said creating of said rules, automatically modifying without user intervention, the previously-generated presentation based on the rules to produce a modified presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at lines 3 -14 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the metadata. For example, a program could be added to the rule base so that automatic selection of the contents is executed every 30 minutes. As an example, the rules can be specified in the following way: First, repeated selection of the same content should be avoided. Second, violent programs may not be selected.

Also, if a new interesting program shows up on the display and if it is within the threshold of preference (i.e., evaluated via a user defined function as sufficiently interesting), the next two best programs are shown in the top corner windows 1C4, 1C5 for 2 minutes. This functionality significantly assists a user with the task of choosing a program to view." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the application in claim 41 is outputting said modified presentation. Claim 41 defines this feature as follows: "outputting said modified presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at line 15 through page 10, line 6 as follows: "Fig. 1D is a block diagram which shows an Intelligent Slide Show as another example of an application of the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention. The composed, original slide show 1D1 consists of 4 slides (1D21 through 1D24). Two of the slides (1D21 and 1D23) include URLs. The slide show 1D1 was designed to be played back in the regular playback order shown in 1D2, i.e., in the order of 1D21, 1D22, 1D23 and 1D24. A different slide show can be generated using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention as shown in 1D3. The new (extended playback) slide show 1D3 has been generated by extending 1D1. In the slide show 1D3, the contents of the URLs included in the original slides (1D21 and 1D23) are retrieved and included as parts of the slides. The inclusion of the pages referenced by the URLs can be accomplished in various ways. For example, the slide 1D21 was extended such that the referenced URL page 1D312 is included as a part of the same slide as page 1D311 as shown in 1D31. In contrast, the referenced URL page on slide 1D23 is included as a separate slide 1D34."

Another feature of the application in claim 49 is creating a set of rules based on user input and selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified. Claim 49 defines this feature as follows: "creating a set of rules based on user input; and selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 9 at lines 3-6 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user

can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs as described hereinbelow. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the meta data." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the invention is after said creating of said rules, automatically expanding, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation based on said rules to produce an expanded presentation. Claim 49 defines this feature as follows: "after said creating of said rules, automatically expanding, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation based on said rules to produce an expanded presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at lines 3-14 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the metadata. For example, a program could be added to the rule base so that automatic selection of the contents is executed every 30 minutes. As an example, the rules can be specified in the following way: First, repeated selection of the same content should be avoided. Second, violent programs may not be selected. Also, if a new interesting program shows up on the display and if it is within the threshold of preference (i.e., evaluated via a user defined function as sufficiently interesting), the next two best programs are shown in the top corner windows 1C4, 1C5 for 2 minutes. This functionality significantly assists a user with the task of choosing a program to view." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the application in claim 49 is outputting said expanded presentation. Claim 41 defines this feature as follows: "outputting said expanded presentation." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at line 15 through page 10, line 6 as follows: "Fig. 1D is a block diagram which shows an Intelligent Slide Show as another example of an application of the

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programmatic presentation generator of the present invention. The composed, original slide show 1D1 consists of 4 slides (1D21 through 1D24). Two of the slides (1D21 and 1D23) include URLs. The slide show 1D1 was designed to be played back in the regular playback order shown in 1D2, i.e., in the order of 1D21, 1D22, 1D23 and 1D24. A different slide show can be generated using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention as shown in 1D3. The new (extended playback) slide show 1D3 has been generated by extending 1D1. In the slide show 1D3, the contents of the URLs included in the original slides (1D21 and 1D23) are retrieved and included as parts of the slides. The inclusion of the pages referenced by the URLs can be accomplished in various ways. For example, the slide 1D21 was extended such that the referenced URL page 1D312 is included as a part of the same slide as page 1D311 as shown in 1D31. In contrast, the referenced URL page on slide 1D23 is included as a separate slide 1D34."

Another feature of the application in claim 55 is creating a set of rules based on user input and selecting at least two previously-generated presentations to be combined. Claim 55 defines this feature as follows: "creating a set of rules based on user input; and selecting at least two previously-generated presentations to be combined." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example page 9 at lines 3-6 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs as described hereinbelow. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the meta data." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the invention in claim 55 is after said creating of said rules, automatically combining, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentations based on said rules to produce said composite presentation sequence. Claim 55 defines this feature as follows: "after said creating of said rules, automatically combining, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentations based on said rules to produce said composite presentation sequence." This feature is described at

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various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at lines 3-14 describes this feature as follows: "Using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention, a user can watch the programs in which he is most interested. This selection could be specified using rule based programs. This program could use simple keyword matching, similar to that used in an internet search engine, over the metadata. For example, a program could be added to the rule base so that automatic selection of the contents is executed every 30 minutes. As an example, the rules can be specified in the following way: First, repeated selection of the same content should be avoided. Second, violent programs may not be selected. Also, if a new interesting program shows up on the display and if it is within the threshold of preference (i.e., evaluated via a user defined function as sufficiently interesting), the next two best programs are shown in the top corner windows 1C4, 1C5 for 2 minutes. This functionality significantly assists a user with the task of choosing a program to view." This is shown in Figure 1C.

Another feature of the application in claim 55 is outputting said composite presentation sequence. Claim 55 defines this feature as follows: "outputting said composite presentation sequence." This feature is described at various points in the specification, for example, page 9 at line 15 through page 10, line 6 as follows: "Fig. 1D is a block diagram which shows an Intelligent Slide Show as another example of an application of the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention. The composed, original slide show 1D1 consists of 4 slides (1D21 through 1D24). Two of the slides (1D21 and 1D23) include URLs. The slide show 1D1 was designed to be played back in the regular playback order shown in 1D2, i.e., in the order of 1D21, 1D22, 1D23 and 1D24. A different slide show can be generated using the programmatic presentation generator of the present invention as shown in 1D3. The new (extended playback) slide show 1D3 has been generated by extending 1D1. In the slide show 1D3, the contents of the URLs included in the original slides (1D21 and 1D23) are retrieved and included as parts of the slides. The inclusion of the pages referenced by the URLs can be accomplished in various ways. For example, the slide 1D21 was extended such

that the referenced URL page 1D312 is included as a part of the same slide as page 1D311 as shown in 1D31. In contrast, the referenced URL page on slide 1D23 is included as a separate slide 1D34."

VI.   GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The issues presented for review is whether claim 10 in anticipated under 35 U.S.C. ' 102(e) by David; and whether claims 41-61 are anticipated under 35 U.S.C. ' 103(a) Shiels in view of Montgomery. Appellants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

VII.   ARGUMENT

A.   The Rejection Based on DAVID

1.   The Position in the Office Action

The Office Action states:

> Considering claim 10, the amended claimed method for programmatic generation of continuous multimedia presentations by a station capable of receiving at least one presentation and a plurality of sensed events, (see col 3, lines 31-65) the method comprising:
>
> 'maintaining a library of rules', reads on the discussion in David of the list of parameters that are tested for a presentation sequence, including; time, loop, interval tiebreak and drop threshold (see Fig. 2 & col. 7, lines 45-58). These parameters are received as JavaScript syntax and are referred to as the sequencer control, which may be

stored in system memory 22, at a subscriber computer (col. 6, lines 19-21).

'receiving at least one presentation' is met by the VBScript sequencer control sequence 350 that defines a set of sequence control commands within a web page, col 8, lines 5-11 & Fig. 3. The web page in David, reads on the claimed 'previously generated presentation'.

'selecting at least one event, wherein events control which rules in the library are applied to the presentation, and testing each rule in the library for each selected event to determine which rules will be applied to the presentation', is met by the disclosure in David (co. 8, lines 1-22) of sequences 355, 360 & 365, for instance, all of which test the rules, i.e., parameters disc above, namely; time, loop, interval, tiebreak and drop threshold. As an example that the event is invoked 1.5 seconds after the start of the of the sequence timeline set 1, the event is repeated 17 times, at .300 second intervals has a tiebreak priority of 3 and a drop threshold of 1.000 seconds.

'applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least presentation top modify the at least one presentation' is met by the application of the parameter values for each sequence event in order to display the objects according to the sequence control, see col. 7, lines 21-45.

2.   Appellants' Position

a.   Independent Claim 10

Appellants traverse this rejection because David combines individual multimedia events to generate a new presentation (Abstract), while the claimed methodology defined

by independent claim 10 relates to the modification of a previously-generated presentation (claim 10 recites "applying each rule . . . to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation"). Nothing within David discloses modification of any of the previously-generated multimedia events that are combined by David into the new presentation.

Appellants respectfully submit that the rejection is based on the incorrect premise that "creating a presentation, as argued by applicant, corresponds with modifying a previously generated presentation" (February 9, 2006 Advisory Action, Response to Arguments, page 1, second paragraph, last sentence). As explained in detail below, the creation of a new presentation is fundamentally different than modification of a previously generated presentation. The claimed invention automatically modifies a "previously-generated presentation" according to previously established rules, which is a fundamentally different prospect than the creation of a new presentation. There is no concept of modifying a previously-generated presentation within David.

The Office Action argues that because David generates the new presentation within a Web page, that David would teach one ordinarily skilled in the art to modify one of the previously-generated multimedia events or modify the newly generated presentation. Appellants respectfully disagree because regardless of where the new presentation is generated by David, there is no concept of modifying a previously-generated presentation within David. The Office Action appears to argue that modification of the Web page is equivalent to modifying a previously-generated presentation. However, a Web page is not equivalent to a presentation because a presentation has a beginning and an end, and dynamically changes as the presentation progresses from beginning to end. To the contrary, a Web page is a static display that changes only when reacting to user inputs. It is unreasonable to equate a Web page to a presentation, and then argue that by generating a new presentation from a combination of previously-generated multimedia events within a Web page that the Web page comprises a presentation that is modified (as the Office Action appears to argue).

The claimed invention modifies the multimedia events while David merely synchronizes and arranges the multimedia events. More specifically, independent claim 10 defines a process of "applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation." Appellants submit that the language "to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation" within claim 10 clearly sets forth a method that modifies a previously-generated presentation, which is contrasted with a method that will generate a presentation from many smaller multimedia presentations or segments (David).

More specifically, David utilizes a sequencer to create a presentation of multimedia events that are synchronized (column 3, lines 41-46). David explains that the disclosed system provides comprehensive timing control for invoking multimedia events and accommodates starting and stopping of multiple timelines (column 7, lines 22-45). One of the reasons for providing the system described in David is to allow the timing information to be specified in terms of time, rather than being defined as part of a frame, which makes the process more intuitive to program and can also makes it easier to program and debug the new presentation created (column 7, lines 22-45). Therefore, it is Appellants' position that David describes a system and method that creates a presentation from many different multimedia events, which is contrasted with a methodology that modifies a previously-generated presentation as defined by independent claim 10.

There is nothing within the disclosure of David which relates to manipulating or modifying any of the individual multimedia events that are synchronized with the system in David. Instead, the disclosure of David merely describes the timing, arrangement, and synchronization of such multimedia events. To the contrary, one ordinarily skilled in the art would understand that the process of "applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation" actually modifies a multimedia event. Since David merely arranges and synchronizes the previously-generated multimedia events,

there is nothing within David that would teach to one ordinarily skilled in the art of the need to modify any of the individual multimedia events. To the contrary, the invention defined by independent claim 10 specifically modifies the individual multimedia events.

Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that David does not teach "applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation" as defined by independent claim 10. Therefore, independent claim 10 is patentable over David. In view the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B.   **The Rejection Based on Shiels and Montgomery**

1.   **The Position in the Office Action**

The Office Action states:

Considering claims 41, 49 & 55, the amended claimed method of modifying previously generated presentation documents comprising:

'creating a set of rules based on user input', is met by the disclosure of Shiels that the user input controls the presentation of a movie, (Abstract col 1, lines 41-58; col. 3, lines 24-35 & col 8, lines 1-28).

'selecting a previously generated document to be modified' is met by the narrative video programs delivered to the STB, col 4, lines 1-35.

Automatically modifying, without user intervention, the previously generated document based on the rules to produced a modified presentation and outputting the presentation' is met by the operation of Shiels, col 2, lines 1-25; col 6, lines 1-64; col 7, lines 7-56 & col. 8, lines 1-28

As for the additionally claimed feature of 'after creating the rules', Shiels teaches that in order to avoid the requirement of the user interaction prior to every branch, path selection of some of the branches maybe dependent on previous interactions, col 7, lines 7, lines 7-12. However, this does not hold in an all instances. Nevertheless, Montgomery teaches modifying a movie upon a script that may be downloaded along with the movie and modified by the user, see Abstract, Para 0047. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the time art at the time the invention was made, to modify Shiels with the teaching of Montgomery, at least for the desirable benefit of automating all of the modifications of a previously generated presentation, Para 0014 and Para 0033.

Regarding claim 55, the claimed feature of selecting at least two previously generated documents to be combined is met by the discussion in Shiels of handling compound images, for instance taking a video sprite and overlaying it on a locally generated background image, col. 5, lines 45-55.

Considering claims 42-45 & 50-51, Shiels teaches that the changes to the document includes changing the content, temporal order of sections, spatial layout and attribute Fig. 6 Fig. 10, col 1, lines 41-58; col 5, lines 30-55. Montgomery also discloses modifying the image itself, Para 0029-Pars 0033.

Considering claims 46-48, 52-54 & 58-61, Shiels teaches that the presentation documents may be audio, video or a still from a screen, which reads on static documents, col. 3, lines 52-56; col. 4, lines 1-15; col 9, lines 25-48. Montgomery discloses modifying still images, Para 0032.

Considering claims 56-57, the claimed subject matter is broad enough to read on the discussion in Shiels of overlaying video sprite on a background image, col. 5, lines 50-55. As for the feature of interleaving, Shiels also discloses that video streams may be seamlessly joined, col. 6, lines 1-30. Montgomery also discloses inserting stock footage, Para 0033.

2. Appellants' Position

a. Independent Claim 41

Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Shiels nor Montgomery teach the automatic modification "without user intervention" of a previously-generated presentation using a set of previously created rules, as defined by independent claim 41. Shiels does not automatically modify a presentation based on previously created rules, but instead selectively requires user intervention during playback of the presentation in order to allow a user to selectively view different portions of a previously-generated presentation (Figure 10 of Shiels). Montgomery merely discloses a method where most of the production of a previously-generated presentation is performed at the client location (instead of at the server) in order to accommodate low bandwidth connections (Abstract).

More specifically, independent claim 41 defines "after said creating of said rules, automatically modifying, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation based on said rules to produce a modified presentation." Independent claim 41 defines a process of "creating a set of rules" that is later used to modify one or more previously-generated presentations and such claims require that the modifying is performed "without user intervention." In other words, the claimed invention defined by

independent claim 41 performs an automated process that acts based on a previously created set of rules instead of interactive user input.

This is directly contrary to what is occurring in Shiels because Shiels requires user input during the playback of the previously generated presentation (column 5, lines 65-column 6, line 7). The previously-generated presentation is not modified, expanded, or combined in Shiels and, instead, Shiels merely provides a methodology for selectively viewing portions of a previously-generated presentation (column 3, lines 24-28). In other words, Shiels does not actually change the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead merely displays different portions of the presentation, depending upon the interactive user input.

In column 5, line 65-column 6, line 46, Shiels sets forth the basic operation of how the interactive user input is utilized to choose between different portions of the previously-generated presentation. As shown in Figure 10 of Shiels this interactive user input allows a different story to be presented to the user which varies depending upon the interactive user input; however, the presentation itself is not modified, expanded, or combined because the presentation itself remains the same. The interactive user input described in Shiels only changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user and/or the order in which these portions are presented to the user.

Therefore, Shiels does not set forth any process whereby a set of rules are created prior to the automated modification of a previously-generated presentation because Shiels requires that the interactive user input be performed while the previously-generated presentation is being presented to the user (col 6, lines 31-32). Thus, as a first point, Appellants submit that Shiels does not teach the claimed process of "creating a set of rules based on user input" as defined by independent claim 41. Further, while Shiels changes which portions of the previously-generated presentation are presented to the user, Shiels does not actually produce a different presentation as the claimed invention does. While Shiels changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user so as to change the ending of a movie, change the character reaction of a video game,

change the appearance of a scene depending upon time of day, etc., the actual presentation itself never changes. Thus, while Shiels alters which portions of the presentation are presented, Shiels does not teach any process of "automatically modifying" one or more previously-generated presentations so as to "produce a modified presentation"; "produce an expanded presentation"; or "produce said composite presentation sequence" as defined by independent claim 41, respectively.

As an additional point, even if the methodology presented in Shiels is somehow considered to modify, expand, or combine the presentation, such modification, expansion, or combination is only performed with interactive user intervention. As shown in detail above, Shiels requires interactive user input during the playback of the presentation (column 6, lines 23-29). If no interactive user input is supplied, the presentation is presented in an unaltered sequence (column 6, lines 42-46). Thus, Appellants submit that none of the automated modification which Shiels could be argued to describe is performed "without user intervention" as required by independent claim 41. Thus, it is Appellants' position that this feature is similarly not taught are suggested by Shiels.

The Office Action notes that column 7, lines 8-10 of Shiels states that path selection at some of a branch points can be made dependent upon previous interactions; however, such "previous interactions" still occur during the playback of the presentation, which requires "user intervention" which is directly contrary to the claim requirement "without user intervention."

Further, the Office Action argues that "Montgomery teaches modifying a movie" based upon a downloaded script. However, this is incorrect because Montgomery only teaches the exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation or the generation of an original presentation, and does not teach any form of modification of a previously-generated presentation. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action that Montgomery somehow proposes modifying the previously-generated presentation, Montgomery

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clearly describes that the previously-generated presentation will be faithfully reproduced through its low bandwidth methodology (Abstract, paragraph 33 of Montgomery).

In the Advisory Action (February 9, 2006 Advisory Action, Response to Arguments, page 4, last two paragraphs) it is argued that because Montgomery uses a "script" to execute several sequences of moves on still images, such as cuts, fades, etc. that the script is somehow modifying the previously-generated presentation. However, a thorough review of the cited sections of Montgomery (paragraphs 14, 41, 45, 46) does not indicate that the previously presentation is modified in any way by Montgomery, but instead that Montgomery goes to great lengths to provide an exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation. In other words, Montgomery uses the script to execute the sequences of moves in order to recreate the previously-generated generation and not to modify the previously-generated presentation based on user-defined rules.

Further, while it is argued that Montgomery provides some video fill (stock footage, animation, and loops) during times when the low bandwidth prevents continuous playback of the previously-generated presentation, again such fill measures do not modify the previously-generated presentation based on the rules that are created in response to user input. Such fill measures of Montgomery are merely displayed during times when the previously-generated presentation is not available to be presented. There is no suggestion in Montgomery that the previously-generated presentation should be modified, but instead that other video and audio should be played in place of the previously-generated presentation if the previously- generated presentation cannot be presented. A substitution of one presentation for another is fundamentally different than the modification of a presentation followed by the output of the modified presentation, as claimed. The claimed invention applies rules that are based on user input in order to modify the previously-generated presentation, after which the modified presentation is output. To the contrary, Montgomery merely provides some fill material during times when the unmodified previously-generated presentation cannot be displayed because of low bandwidth conditions.

Thus, as shown above, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach many aspects of the methodology defined by independent claim 41. First, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not perform a process of "creating a set of rules based on user input." Secondly, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach "automatically modifying" a previously-generated presentation because Shiels does not actually alter the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead selectively displays different portions of the presentation based upon interactive user input. Finally, the process performed in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery is not performed "without user intervention" but instead the process in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery explicitly requires interactive user input (Shiels).

Therefore, Appellants submit that independent claim 41 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

b. Independent Claim 49

Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Shiels nor Montgomery teach the automatic modification "without user intervention" of a previously-generated presentation using a set of previously created rules, as defined by independent claim 49. Shiels does not modify a presentation, but instead selectively requires user intervention in order to allow a user to selectively view different portions of a previously-generated presentation (Figure 10 of Shiels). Montgomery merely discloses a method where most of the production of a presentation is performed at the client location (instead of at the server) in order to accommodate low bandwidth connections (Abstract).

More specifically, independent claim 49 defines "after said creating of said rules, automatically expanding . . . to produce an expanded presentation". Claim 49 defines a

process of "creating a set of rules" that is later used to expand one or more previously-generated presentations and such claims require that the expanding is performed "without user intervention." In other words, the claimed invention defined by independent claim 49 performs an automated process that acts based on a previously created set of rules instead of interactive user input.

This is directly contrary to what is occurring in Shiels because Shiels requires user input during the playback of the previously generated presentation (column 5, lines 65-column 6, line 7). The previously-generated presentation is not expanded in Shiels and, instead, Shiels merely provides a methodology for selectively viewing portions of a previously-generated presentation (column 3, lines 24-28). In other words, Shiels does not actually change the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead merely displays different portions of the presentation, depending upon the interactive user input.

In column 5, line 65-column 6, line 46, Shiels sets forth the basic operation of how the interactive user input is utilized to choose between different portions of the previously-generated presentation. As shown in Figure 10 of Shiels this interactive user input allows a different story to be presented to the user which varies depending upon the interactive user input; however, the presentation itself is not modified, expanded, or combined because the presentation itself remains the same. The interactive user input described in Shiels only changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user and/or the order in which these portions are presented to the user.

Therefore, Shiels does not set forth any process whereby a set of rules are created prior to the automated expansion of a previously-generated presentation because Shiels requires that the interactive user input be performed while the previously-generated presentation is being presented to the user (col 6, lines 31-32). Thus, as a first point, Appellants submit that Shiels does not teach the claimed process of "creating a set of rules based on user input" as defined by independent claim 49. Further, while Shiels changes which portions of the previously-generated presentation are presented to the

user, Shiels does not actually produce a different presentation as the claimed invention does. While Shiels changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user so as to change the ending of a movie, change the character reaction of a video game, change the appearance of a scene depending upon time of day, etc., the actual presentation itself never changes. Thus, while Shiels alters which portions of the presentation are presented, Shiels does not teach any process of "automatically expanding" one or more previously-generated presentations so as to "produce an expanded presentation" as defined by independent claim 49.

As an additional point, even if the methodology presented in Shiels is somehow considered to expand the presentation, such expansion is only performed with interactive user intervention. As shown in detail above, Shiels requires interactive user input during the playback of the presentation (column 6, lines 23-29). If no interactive user input is supplied, the presentation is presented in an unaltered sequence (column 6, lines 42-46). Thus, Appellants submit that none of the automated expansion which Shiels could be argued to describe is performed "without user intervention" as required by independent claim 49. Thus, it is Appellants' position that this feature is similarly not taught are suggested by Shiels.

The Office Action notes that column 7, lines 8-10 of Shiels states that path selection at some of a branch points can be made dependent upon previous interactions; however, such "previous interactions" still occur during the playback of the presentation, which requires "user intervention" which is directly contrary to the claim requirement "without user intervention."

Further, the Office Action argues that "Montgomery teaches is modifying a movie" based upon a downloaded script. However, this is incorrect because Montgomery only teaches the exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation and does not teach any form of modification of a previously-generated presentation. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action that Montgomery somehow proposes modifying the previously-generated presentation, Montgomery clearly describes that the previously-

generated presentation will be faithfully reproduced through its low bandwidth methodology (Abstract, paragraph 33 of Montgomery).

In the Advisory Action (February 9, 2006 Advisory Action, Response to Arguments, page 4, last two paragraphs) it is argued that because Montgomery uses a "script" to execute several sequences of moves on still images, such as cuts, fades, etc. that the script is somehow modifying the previously-generated presentation. However, a thorough review of the cited sections of Montgomery (paragraphs 14, 41, 45, 46) does not indicate that the previously presentation is modified in any way by Montgomery, but instead that Montgomery goes to great lengths to provide an exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation. In other words, Montgomery uses the script to execute the sequences of moves in order to recreate the previously-generated generation and not to modify the previously-generated presentation based on user-defined rules.

Further, while it is argued that Montgomery provides some video fill (stock footage, animation, and loops) during times when the low bandwidth prevents continuous playback of the previously-generated presentation, again such fill measures do not modify the previously-generated presentation based on the rules that are created in response to user input. Such fill measures of Montgomery are merely displayed during times when the previously-generated presentation is not available to be presented. There is no suggestion in Montgomery that the previously-generated presentation should modified, but instead that other video and audio should be played in place of the previously-generated presentation if the previously- generated presentation cannot be presented. A substitution of one presentation for another is fundamentally different than the modification of a presentation followed by the output of the modified presentation, as claimed. The claimed invention applies rules that are based on user input in order to modify the previously-generated presentation, after which the modified presentation is output. To the contrary, Montgomery merely provides some fill material during times when the unmodified previously-generated presentation cannot be displayed because of low bandwidth conditions.

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Thus, as shown above, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach many aspects of the methodology defined by independent claim 49. First, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not perform a process of "creating a set of rules based on user input." Secondly, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach "automatically expanding" a previously-generated presentation because Shiels does not actually alter the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead selectively displays different portions of the presentation based upon interactive user input. Finally, the process performed in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery is not performed "without user intervention" but instead the process in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery explicitly requires interactive user input (Shiels).

Therefore, Appellants submit that independent claim 49 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

c.   Independent Claim 55

Appellants respectfully traverse this rejection because neither Shiels nor Montgomery teach the automatic modification "without user intervention" of a previously-generated presentation using a set of previously created rules, as defined by independent claim 55. Shiels does not modify a presentation, but instead selectively requires user intervention in order to allow a user to selectively view different portions of a previously-generated presentation (Figure 10 of Shiels). Montgomery merely discloses a method where most of the production of a presentation is performed at the client location (instead of at the server) in order to accommodate low bandwidth connections (Abstract).

More specifically, independent claim 55 defines "automatically combining . . . to produce said composite presentation sequence". Independent claim 55 defines a process

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of "creating a set of rules" that is later used to combine one or more previously-generated presentations and such a claim requires that the combining is performed "without user intervention." In other words, the claimed invention defined by independent claim 55 performs an automated process that acts based on a previously created set of rules instead of interactive user input.

This is directly contrary to what is occurring in Shiels because Shiels requires user input during the playback of the previously generated presentation (column 5, lines 65-column 6, line 7). The previously-generated presentation is not combined in Shiels and, instead, Shiels merely provides a methodology for selectively viewing portions of a previously-generated presentation (column 3, lines 24-28). In other words, Shiels does not actually change the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead merely displays different portions of the presentation, depending upon the interactive user input.

In column 5, line 65-column 6, line 46, Shiels sets forth the basic operation of how the interactive user input is utilized to choose between different portions of the previously-generated presentation. As shown in Figure 10 of Shiels this interactive user input allows a different story to be presented to the user which varies depending upon the interactive user input; however, the presentation itself is not combined because the presentation itself remains the same. The interactive user input described in Shiels only changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user and/or the order in which these portions are presented to the user.

Therefore, Shiels does not set forth any process whereby a set of rules are created prior to the automated combination of a previously-generated presentation because Shiels requires that the interactive user input be performed while the previously-generated presentation is being presented to the user (col 6, lines 31-32). Thus, as a first point, Appellants submit that Shiels does not teach the claimed process of "creating a set of rules based on user input" as defined by independent claim 55. Further, while Shiels changes which portions of the previously-generated presentation are presented to the

user, Shiels does not actually produce a different presentation as the claimed invention does. While Shiels changes which portions of the presentation are presented to the user so as to change the ending of a movie, change the character reaction of a video game, change the appearance of a scene depending upon time of day, etc., the actual presentation itself never changes. Thus, while Shiels alters which portions of the presentation are presented, Shiels does not teach any process of "automatically combining" one or more previously-generated presentations so as to "produce said composite presentation sequence" as defined by independent claim 55.

As an additional point, even if the methodology presented in Shiels is somehow considered to combine the presentation, such combination is only performed with interactive user intervention. As shown in detail above, Shiels requires interactive user input during the playback of the presentation (column 6, lines 23-29). If no interactive user input is supplied, the presentation is presented in an unaltered sequence (column 6, lines 42-46). Thus, Appellants submit that none of the automated combination which Shiels could be argued to describe is performed "without user intervention" as required by independent claim 55. Thus, it is Appellants' position that this feature is similarly not taught are suggested by Shiels.

The Office Action notes that column 7, lines 8-10 of Shiels states that path selection at some of a branch points can be made dependent upon previous interactions; however, such "previous interactions" still occur during the playback of the presentation, which requires "user intervention" which is directly contrary to the claim requirement "without user intervention."

Further, the Office Action argues that "Montgomery teaches is modifying a movie" based upon a downloaded script. However, this is incorrect because Montgomery only teaches the exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation and does not teach any form of modification of a previously-generated presentation. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action that Montgomery somehow proposes modifying the previously-generated presentation, Montgomery clearly describes that the previously-

generated presentation will be faithfully reproduced through its low bandwidth methodology (Abstract, paragraph 33 of Montgomery).

In the Advisory Action (February 9, 2006 Advisory Action, Response to Arguments, page 4, last two paragraphs) it is argued that because Montgomery uses a "script" to execute several sequences of moves on still images, such as cuts, fades, etc. that the script is somehow modifying the previously-generated presentation. However, a thorough review of the cited sections of Montgomery (paragraphs 14, 41, 45, 46) does not indicate that the previously presentation is modified in any way by Montgomery, but instead that Montgomery goes to great lengths to provide an exact recreation of the previously-generated presentation. In other words, Montgomery uses the script to execute the sequences of moves in order to recreate the previously-generated generation and not to modify the previously-generated presentation based on user-defined rules.

Further, while it is argued that Montgomery provides some video fill (stock footage, animation, and loops) during times when the low bandwidth prevents continuous playback of the previously-generated presentation, again such fill measures do not modify the previously-generated presentation based on the rules that are created in response to user input. Such fill measures of Montgomery are merely displayed during times when the previously-generated presentation is not available to be presented. There is no suggestion in Montgomery that the previously-generated presentation should modified, but instead that other video and audio should be played in place of the previously-generated presentation if the previously- generated presentation cannot be presented. A substitution of one presentation for another is fundamentally different than the modification of a presentation followed by the output of the modified presentation, as claimed. The claimed invention applies rules that are based on user input in order to modify the previously-generated presentation, after which the modified presentation is output. To the contrary, Montgomery merely provides some fill material during times when the unmodified previously-generated presentation cannot be displayed because of low bandwidth conditions.

Thus, as shown above, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach many aspects of the methodology defined by independent claim 55. First, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not perform a process of "creating a set of rules based on user input." Secondly, the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach "automatically combining" a previously-generated presentation because Shiels does not actually alter the previously-generated presentation in any manner, but instead selectively displays different portions of the presentation based upon interactive user input. Finally, the process performed in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery is not performed "without user intervention" but instead the process in the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery explicitly requires interactive user input (Shiels).

Therefore, Appellants submit that independent claim 55 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

d.   Dependent Claim 42

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 42 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically, dependent claim 42 defines that the modifying comprises changing content of the previously-generated presentation. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process changes any content of the previously generated presentation, because eventually the full content of the presentation is displayed in Shiels and Montgomery (even if pauses or diversions may sometimes occur).

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Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 42 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

e.　　Dependent Claim 43

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 43 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically, dependent claims 43 defines that the modifying comprises changing temporal order of sections of the previously-generated presentation. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process changes the temporal order of sections of the previously-generated presentation of the previously generated, because eventually the full content of the presentation is displayed in Shiels and Montgomery (even if pauses or diversions may sometimes occur).

Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 43 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

f.　　Dependent Claim 44

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 44 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically,

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dependent 44 defines that the modifying comprises changing spatial layout of the previously-generated presentation. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process changes spatial layout of the previously-generated presentation, because eventually the full content of the presentation is displayed in Shiels and Montgomery without spatial layout changes.

Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 44 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

g. Dependent Claim 45

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 45 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically, dependent claim 45 defines that the modifying comprises changing presentation attributes of the previously-generated presentation. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process changes any attributes of the previously generated, because eventually all attributes of the presentation are displayed in Shiels and Montgomery (even if pauses or diversions may sometimes occur).

Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 45 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

h.   **Dependent Claims 46-48, 52-54, and 58-61**

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claims 46-48, 52-54, and 58-61 and that these dependent claims are independently patentable over their associated independent claims and do not stand or fall with their associated independent claim. Claims 46, 52, and 59 define that the previously-generated presentation comprises continuous media components. Claims 47, 53, and 60 define that previously-generated presentation comprises audio and video components. Claims 48 and 54, and 61 define that previously-generated presentation comprises static components. Further, claim 58 defines that the previously-generated presentation include static objects and the combining process simultaneously displays static objects from different presentations. Neither Shiels nor Montgomery demonstrates the features disclosed in dependent claims 46-48, 52-54, and 58-61. Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claims 46-48, 52-54, and 58-61 are patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

i.   **Dependent Claims 50-51**

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claims 50 and 51 and that these dependent claims are independently patentable over their associated independent claims and do not stand or fall with their associated independent claim. Claim 50 defines that expanding comprises expanding portions of the previously-generated presentation. Claim 51 defines that the expanding comprises adding new data to selected portions of the previously-generated presentation. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the

presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process demonstrates that the expanding of the presentation could either be by adding new data to, or by expanding portions of, the previously-generated presentation as defined by dependent claims 50 and 51.

Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claims 50 and 51 are patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

j.   Dependent Claim 56

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 56 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically, dependent claim 56 defines that the combining process simultaneously presents the previously-generated presentations. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process simultaneously presents the previously-generated presentations. Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 56 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

k.   Dependent Claim 57

The following discussion demonstrates that the combination of Shiels and Montgomery does not teach or suggest the invention defined by dependent claim 57 and that the dependent claim is independently patentable over its associated independent

claim and does not stand or fall with its associated independent claim. More specifically, dependent claim 57 defines that combining process interleaves the previously-generated presentations. Even assuming, for sake of argument, that one could have considered the manner in which the order of the presentation is changed in Shiels, and the fill material in Montgomery, to have modified the presentation in some manner, neither process suggests interleaving previously-generated presentations. Therefore, Appellants submit that dependent claim 57 is patentable over the proposed combination of Shiels and Montgomery. In view of the foregoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Therefore, the combined teachings of Shiels and Montgomery would not teach or suggest to one ordinarily skilled in the art the features that are defined by dependent claims. Thus, it is Appellants position that dependent claims 42-48, 50-54 and 56-61, are independently patentable on their own over the prior of record.

C.   CONCLUSION

In view the forgoing, the Board is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 10 and 41-61.

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit Account Number 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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_____
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VIII.   CLAIMS APPENDIX

1-9.   (Canceled).

10.   (Previously Presented) A method for programmatic generation of continuous multimedia presentations by a station capable of receiving at least one presentation and a plurality of sensed events, the method comprising the steps of:

    maintaining a library of rules;

    receiving at least one previously-generated presentation;

    selecting at least one event, wherein events control which rules in said library are applied to said previously-generated presentation;

    testing each rule in the library for each selected event to determine which rules will be applied to said previously-generated presentation; and

    applying each rule that positively responded to the testing step to the at least one previously-generated presentation to modify the at least one previously-generated presentation.

11-40 (Canceled).

41.   (Previously Presented) A method of modifying previously-generated presentations, said method comprising:

    creating a set of rules based on user input;

    selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified;

    after said creating of said rules, automatically modifying, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation based on said rules to produce a modified presentation; and

    outputting said modified presentation.

42.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing content of said previously-generated presentation.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing temporal order of sections of said previously-generated presentation.

44.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing spatial layout of said previously-generated presentation.

45.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing presentation attributes of said previously-generated presentation.

46.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises continuous media components.

47.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises audio and video components.

48.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises static components.

49.   (Previously Presented) A method of modifying previously-generated presentations, said method comprising:
        creating a set of rules based on user input;
        selecting a previously-generated presentation to be modified;
        after said creating of said rules, automatically expanding, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation based on said rules to produce an expanded presentation; and

outputting said expanded presentation.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 49, wherein said expanding comprises expanding portions of said previously-generated presentation.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 49, wherein said expanding comprises adding new data to selected portions of said previously-generated presentation.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises continuous media components.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises audio and video components.

54.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprises static components.

55.   (Currently Amended) A method of creating a composite presentation sequence from at least two previously-generated presentations, said method comprising:
        creating a set of rules based on user input:
        selecting at least two previously-generated presentations to be combined;
        after said creating of said rules, automatically combining, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentations based on said rules to produce said composite presentation sequence; and
        outputting said composite presentation sequence.

56.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said combining process simultaneously presents said at least two previously-generated presentation.

57.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said combining process interleaves said at least two previously-generated presentation.

58.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation include static objects and said combining process simultaneously displays static objects from different presentation .

59.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprise continuous media components.

60.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprise audio and video components.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation comprise static components.

IX.   EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no other evidence known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or Assignee which would directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

X.   RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There is no other related proceedings known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representative or Assignee which would directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.